

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The complete set of claims is provided below in compliance with the Revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, Effective July 30, 2003. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

1. (Currently amended) A superabsorbent composition comprising:
an underneutralized superabsorbent polymer in which at least 50% ~~30%~~ of the
functional groups of the polymer are in free acid form and less than 50% of the
functional groups of the polymer are sodium neutralized; and
a layered double hydroxide anionic clay.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent
polymer has a pH ranging from about 4.5 to about 6.0.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein less than about 40% of the
functional groups of the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer are sodium
neutralized and at least 60% of the functional groups are in free acid form.
6. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the layered double hydroxide anionic
clay is hydrotalcite.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6 wherein the hydrotalcite is rehydrated.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer and the layered double hydroxide anionic clay are present in a ratio ranging from about 1:1 to about 1:20.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer and the layered double hydroxide anionic clay are present in a ratio ranging from about 1:1 to about 1:10.
10. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid pervious topsheet;
 - a liquid impervious backsheet joined to said topsheet;
 - an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet;
 - said absorbent core including fluff pulp and a superabsorbent composition;
 - said superabsorbent composition comprising an underneutralized superabsorbent polymer and a layered double hydroxide anionic clay;wherein at least 50% ~~30%~~ of the functional groups of the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer are in free acid form and less than 50% of the functional groups of the polymer are sodium neutralized.
11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10 wherein the superabsorbent composition is present in an amount ranging from about 0.2 gram to about 0.8 grams per gram of fluff pulp in the absorbent core.
12. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 10 wherein the superabsorbent composition is present in an amount ranging from about 3 gram to about 10 grams per gram of fluff pulp ~~fibrous material~~ in the absorbent core.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer has a pH ranging from about 4.5 to about 6.0.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 10 wherein less than about 40% of the functional groups of the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer are sodium neutralized and at least 60% of the functional groups are in free acid form.
17. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein the layered double hydroxide anionic clay is hydrotalcite.
18. (Original) The composition of claim 17 wherein the hydrotalcite is rehydrated.
19. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer and the layered double hydroxide anionic clay are present in a ratio ranging from about 1:1 to about 1:20.
20. (Original) The composition of claim 10 wherein the underneutralized superabsorbent polymer and the layered double hydroxide anionic clay are present in a ratio ranging from about 1:1 to about 1:10.